THE
Rare and moſt vvon-derful thinges which Edward VVebbe an Engliſhman borne, hath ſeene and paſſed in his troubleſome trauailes, in the Citties of Ieruſalem, Dammasko, Bethelem and Galely: and in the Landes of Iewrie, Egipt, Grecia, Ruſſia, and in the Land of Preſter Iohn.

Wherein is ſet foorth his extreame ſlauerie ſuſtained many yeres togither, in the Gallies & wars of the great Turk againſt the Landes of Perſia, Tartaria, Spaine, and Portugall: with the manner of his releaſement, and comming into Englande in May laſt.



LONDON,
Printed by Ralph Blower, for Thomas Pauier, &
and are to be ſolde at his ſhop in

¶ The Epiſtle to the Reader.

COurteous Reader, I haue vndertaken in this ſhort diſcourſe, to vtter vnto thee ỹ moſt part of ſuch things as I ſaw & paſſed in the time of my troubleſome trauell and flauiſh life ſuſteyned in the Gallies, & wars of the great Turke.

And this I do proteſt, that in this booke there is nothing mentioned or expreſſed, but that which is of truth: and what mine own Eies haue perfectly ſeene. Some fooliſh perſons perhaps will cavel and ſay, that thieſe are but Lies and fables: and that it conteyneth nothing elſe: but to thoſe I aunſwere, that whatſoeuer is herein mentioned, he whoſoeuer he be, that ſhall ſoe finde faulte, and doubt of the trueth hereof, let him but make inquirie of the beſt & greateſt trauellers and Merchants about all this land: and they doubtles will reſolue them that it is true which is here expreſſed: with a great deale more, which now I cannot call to remembrance, for that my memory faileth me, by meanes of my great and greeuous troubles. From my lodging at Black-wall, this nineteenth of May. 1590.

Your Loving cuntreman,

EDWARD WEBBE.

TO THE MOST MIGHTY, MY GRATIOVS AND RENOWNED SOVERAIGNE, ELIZABETH

by the grace of God Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

YOVR HIGHNESSE MOST HVMBLE SVBIECT,

Edward VVeb, hartely prayeth for the continuance of your Maiesties health and prosperous raigne to the worldes ende.

CONsidering (most Gracious & dread Soueraigne) the wonderful prouidence of Almightie god shewed towardes your Highnesse since the time of your most happie & prosperous raigne, aswell in the preseruation of your Maiesties person from the handes of your highnesse enemies, as also, in defending this small Angle or Realme of Englande from the force of forraine foes: and the continuall blessings of peace & plentie, with which euer since, he hath in bountifull sort maintained it: I coulde not therefore but (according to my dutie) render humble thankes to almightie god for the same when to my great comfort, euen in the midst of my thraldome in Turkie, I did heare it most truely reported by a Christian Captiue, and your highnesse Clemencie, by him highly commended. The Report of whose fame truly discribed, aswell in the administration of iustice, and supporting of Christian religion, as also in releiuing and succouring the poore distressed members of this lande, gaue me iust cause to pray hartely for my deliuerie, and to long inwardly, vntill I came to see your highnesse (my dread Soueraigne) and this my Natiue Cuntrey: and now hauing obteyned my long expected wish, I doe in all humblenesse prostrate my selfe, and this plaine discourse of my trauels to your most excellent Maiestie: wherein may be seene, that if in Turkie I would haue denied my Christ, or in my trauel woulde haue forsaken my Prince to haue serued for Spaine, thereby to haue become a traytour to your Maiestie & my natiue Cuntrey, I needed not to haue liued in want, but in great prosperitie: but for as much as almightie God hath now set me free from thaldome, and deliuered me from many daungers, and sent me into England, my desire is that I may be imployed in such seruice and affaires, as may be pleasing to God, and found profitable to my prince and cuntrey. And thus trusting your Highnesse will accept in good worth this true discourse (though rudely penned) I most humbly take my leaue, most hartely praying to the almightie god, for the prosperous health and continuall Raigne of your most excellent Maiestie.

Your Highnesses humble subiect,

Ed. Web.

Verſes Written vppon the Alphabet of the Queenes Maieſties name.

E ternall God, who guideth ſtill your grace,
L engthen your life, in health and happie dayes,
I nſpire your ſubiects heartes in euery place:
Z ealous in Loue, and free from ſecret hate,
A nd ſhorten life in thoſe that breede debate.
B eholde her Lorde, who is our ſtrength and ſtay
E uen he it is, by whom we holde our owne:
T urne not thy face from her in any way,
H ew downe her foes, and let them all be knowne.

R Enowned Queene, your highneſſe ſubiectes ioy,
E uen for to ſée the fall of all your foes:
G od of his mercy ſhielde you from annoy
I ntending treaſons, ſtill for to diſcloſe:
N one of vs all, but will moſt duely pray,
A lmightie God preſerue you night and day.

FINIS.

I Edward Web an englishman, borne at S. Katherins, neere ẏ Tower of London, was the sonne of one Richard Web maister gunner of England: my father hauing some natural affectiõ to me, whẽ I was but ry̆ yeares olde, did prefer me to the seruice of Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambassador into Russia, with whom I went by Sea, & vpon him I was daylie attendant: in which my iourney, I was conuersant among ẏ people of that Cuntrey, which were apparelled like the Turkes and Tartarians, with furde Caps and long garments down to their shins: much like to Carbines or Horsemen readie to ẏ warre.

There I made my abode some space in the head Cittie of Russia called Musko, in which their building is all of Firre, except the Emperors Court, which is of lime and stone. They execute very sharpe lawes among themselues, & are a kinde of Tyranous People as appeareth by their customs, of which, among many other, these I specially noted: (viz.) that if any man be indebted one to another, and doth not make paiment at his day and time appointed: the officers may enter vppon the debtors, & forceably breake down their houses, & imprison them in grieuous sort where iudgment shal presently passe against him, which is w̃ a mallet of wood he shall haue so many blowes on the shinnes or on the fore-heade, as the Iudge shall awarde: and this punishment shall be inflicted sundry daies vpon him. The Turks do also vse to beate Debtors with a Mallet, but not in that sort, for in Turkie they are beaten for debt vpon the soles of their feet with a Cane, or else a Cudgell, if that paiment be not made by a day. I also noted that if any Nobleman do offend ẏ Emperor of Russia, the saide Nobleman is taken and imprisonned with al his Children and kinsfolkes, and the first great frost that commeth, (for the Cuntrey is wonderfull cold and subiect to much frost) there is a great hole made in the Ise ouer some great Riuer, and then the partie principal is put in, and after him his wife, his Children, and all other his kinsfolkes: and so leatie none of his posteritie to possesse his Lands or goodes, but the same are bestowed vppon others, at the Emperors pleasure.

There I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my maister, in which time

the Crime-Tartarians [otherwise named the new Christians] made warre vpon the said Cittie of Musko, which soone after was betrayed, and speadely burned, the People in great abundance massacred, and the Tartarian Souldiers had wonderfull greate and rich spoyles, in the same: there was I at that time with xij. other Englishmen taken prisoners, and for slaues were conueied to Caffa, where the king of the Tartarians abideth & keepeth a statly Court: being conueyed thither, we were set to wipe the fæt of the kings horses, and to become ordinarie slaues in the said Court, to fetch water, cleaue wood, and to do such other drudgery. There were we beaten thrée times a weeke with a Buls pizel, or a horse tayle: and thus in this sort & miserable seruitude were stayed there fiue yeares, then were we ransomed from thence by our friends, where we paide euery man 300. crownes, which is xij. s. vj. d. a peece of English money. Among that people called ỳ Tartarians, I noted especially this one thing, that their Children being new borne, do neuer open their eyes vntill they be iv. dayes & iv. nights olde. Thus being ransomed as is aforesaid, I returned home into England, where hauing staied some smal time, I went againe into Russia in the hart of master Kings of Ratcliffe with thirty saile of ships more in our company, at which time her Maiesties shippe called the Willoughby was our Admirall, and the Harry appertayning to the cõpany of the Marchants, was our Vice-admirall, Maister William Burrow then being our Captaine & maister: in which our voyage we met with v. Rouers or men of war, vpõ we set vppon, and burnt their Admirall, and brought the sele ships into Narr, and there the men ware massacred in this manner by the Russians: first great stakes driuen into the grounde, & they spitted vppon Powles, as a man would put a Pig vpon a Spitte, and so vij. score were handled in that manner in very Tyrannous sort. We vnladed our bourthen at Narre, and toke in our lading for our commodities, but the ship wherein I was (which is called the Hart) hauing sayled but xij. miles from thence, strake vpon a Rocke, whereby the ship and goodes were lost, the residue of the fleet had no harme, and all the men saued their liues by taking the selues into the Boat of the same ship.

By meanes of which ship so cast away, I lost all that I had, & then came againe into England, and gathered a new stocke, and

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in the Henrie of London I went to Levanta alias Legorne. This ship called the Henrie had bin solde before to Doctor Hector, and other Italian Marchants, which was vnknowne vnto vs, so that at our comming to Legorne the ship was seized on by the factors of those that were the owners thereof, and by them laden with merchãdize to Alexandria, in which voyage my selfe was M. gunner.

But heere fortune began to lowre on me againe, and turne her wheele in such sort against me, as that I was sone after beought to liue in greater slauerie then euer I did before, for we hauing safelie ariued at Alexandria, discharged our burthen: and fraughted our ship with great store of that Cuntrey cõmodities, and returning back to Legorne, suddainly in the way, we met with Fiftie saile of the Turkes Gallies: with which Gallies, we fought two dayes and two nights, & made great slaughter amongst their men, we being in all but three score men very weake for such a multytude, and hauing lost 50. of 60. men, faintnes constrayned vs for to yeeld vnto them, by reason we wanted Winde to help our selues withall, and the Calme was so great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to escape. Thus did the Turkes take the ship and goodes, and in the same found 7. of vs liuing whom they toke Prisoners and presently stripped vs naked, & gaue vs 100 blowes a peece with an Oxe pizel, for presuming to fight against them.

Then were we sent to Constantinople, and then cõmitted to the Gallies, where we continued the space of vj. yeeres: the manner of our diage, there, was thus.

First we were shauen head and face, and then a shirt of Cotte, and Breeches of the same put vppon vs, and our Legs and Feete left naked, and by one of the feet is each slaue chayned with a great chaine to the Gallie, and our handes fastned with a payre of manacles. The foode which I and others did eat, was very blacke, far worse then Horse-breade, and our drinke was stinking water, (vnlesse it be when we come to the places where we toke in fresh water) at which time we supposed our diet to be very daintie.

Thus as I saide before, I remained vj. yeeres in this miserable state, wonderfully beaten and misvsed euery day: there haue I seene some of my fellowes when they haue bin so weake as they could not row by reason of sicknes and faintnes, where ỳ Turkes would lay vpon them as vpon Horses, and beat them in such sort.

as oft times they dyed, and then threw them into the Sea.

Thus seing my selfe still to continue in this miserable state, I was constrained for want of victualles, to discouer my selfe and to shew them that I had good skill in Gunners art, which I thought would haue bin greatly wel esteemed at the Turkes handes: but then for the same, I was more narrowly loked vnto, yet somewhat better esteemed of, then I was before. Not long after, the Turke made warres against the Persians, and gathered vp. C. thousand men togither, and these were conducted by his chief Bashaes into Persia: At which time (for that I had skil in Artillery) I was chosen forth of the Gallies, to go with the Armie into the lande of Persia, and there to do the Turke seruice in the fielde, w whom I trauailed on foote, but in our going thither, there dyed of our Armie, by meanes of great sickenes, diet, and want of victualls, about the number of xxx. M. so that when we came into persia, we were foure thousand strong in the fielde, there wee rested vs one moneth, by which time, we (hauing hartened our selues) gaue a fierce assault against the Persians, where the Turks side got the worst, and lost 60. M. men. Then the generall ouer the Turkes Armie, whose name was Sannon Basha, sent vs so many souldiers more as made vs 50 M. strong, there we staide for a long time, making warres against the Persians, and the greate Cittie of Damasco, where the Turke little preuayled: for if that the Turke were as pollitick as he is strong of power, the Persians were not able to resist him.

Thus leauing the Turkes Armie in Persia, we came through Damasco to our Cittie called the great Caer, which Cittie is three score miles in compasse, and is the greatest Cittie in the world, it standeth vpon the riuer of Nilo, and in the said Cittie, there is 12 thousand Churches, which they tearme Muscots.

This Cittie at all times keepeth xl. thousand men continually in Souldiers pay, and are ready at one houres warning to serue vnder the Turke: there we staide to see the cutting or parting of the Riuer of Nilo, which is done once euery yeare, vpon the 25. of August. This Cittie standeth in the land of Egipt, and is vnder the gouernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the saide Cittie, who is called the King of the great Caer, and by vize Roy or Lieftenant to the great Turke, and he is then present at

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the cutting or parting of this riuer of Nilo: at which time there is a great triumph, and euery Towne and Cuntrey round about to the value of a M. mile, send guifts and presents to the King of the great Caer, in consideration of the water which cõmeth to them from that Riuer of Nilo by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once euery yeere.

It is therefore to be vnderstood, that in ẏ Land of Egipt it rayneth not at all, and all the grounde throughout the lande of Egipt is continnally watred by the water which vppon ẏ 25. day of August is turned into the cuntries round about, by meanes of ẏ wonderfull growing and swelling of the water vpright wout any stay at all, on the one side thereof, it is to ẏ height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to increase the 15. day of August, and by the 25. of the same moneth it is at the highest, on which day it is cut by ẏ deuiding of 2 pillars in a straunge sort, neere to the cittie of ẏ great Caer, and so turned as off from a great mountaine into the lande of Egipt: by meanes whereof, the Turke holdes all the land of Egipt in subiection to him selfe, and might if he would dismisse them cleane from hauing any water at all.

From thence I went wᵗʰ the Turkes power, and vnder his conduction to the lande of Iewry, and from thence to the citty of Ierusalem, where part of the olde Temple is yet standing, & many Monuments of great antiquitie, as herein after shall be shewed.

In the Land of Siria, there is a riuer that no Iew can catch any fish in it at all, and yet in the same riuer there is great store of fish like vnto Samon trouts: But let a Christian or a Turke come thither and fish for them, and eyther of them shall catch them in great aboundance, if they do but put their hande into the water wᵗʰ a little bread, and an hundred will be about his hand.

Thus hauing seene a number of rare & most wonderful things, we went to the citty of Agowa, which is ẏ head and chief citty in all ẏ East Indies, there wee gaue Battell against ẏ Christians ẏ keep ẏ said citty, which are Portugals, for that ẏ Town appertaineth to ẏ King of Portugal. In this place wee gaue battle and lost xx M. of ẏ Turks men, and yet could not obtain it: Neuertheles ẏ great Turks Lieftenant or Generall with his power tooke a place called Armous, where they had great store of Treasure & Howses of Siluer.

Thus being chiefe maister Gunner in these Turkish warres, I was sent for againe by commandement of ỳ Turk to Damasco, where I staied all that winter with xx. M. men. And from thence made prouision to make wars against the land of Prester John, who is by profession a Christian. In this land of Prester John, when it doth raine, it continueth at the least one whole moneth. And in ỳ graund Caer, there is a plague once in euery vij. yeres, which commeth with such a fiercenes, that the most part of all the people there do die of the said plague: and people in great numbers lose their Eie sight with the vapours and great heat which commeth from the ground.

I remember one battaile which ỳ Admirall of the great Turke named Ally Basha made with three score Gallies, & seazed vpon a towne where the said Ally Basha was borne himselfe, named Trybulas, which is in ỳ confines of Calabria, & vnder ỳ' gouernment of the king of Spaine, at which towne he landed his Armie an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treason: & there vpon in great fury scaled the wals with ladders: but the watch bewraied vs, and on a sodaine, cried Arme, arme, which was soone done: for euery man toke him to his toles & weapons of defence. But it is worthy of memorie, to see how the women of ỳ towne did plie themselues with their weapons, making a great massacre vpon our men, and murthered 500 of them in such spædie and furious sort as is wonderfull: we næded not to haue feared their men at all, had not ỳ women bin our great ouerthrow, at which time I my selfe was maister Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chaines græuously, and beaten naked with a Turkish sword flatling, for not shooting where they would haue me, & where I could not shoot I tis but a few yeares since, that in the cittie of Constantinople, there happned a great plague, where there dyed in sir monethes space, seuen hundred M. persons, at which time master Harbarn Ambassadour for the Turkie company was there, and lost sundry of his seruants.

From Damasco we went into the land of prester John who is a Christian, and is called Chriltien de Sentour: that is, the Christian of the Gerdell: against this prester John, I went with the Turks power, and was then their maister Gunner in the field, ỳ number of Turkish Souldiers sent thither, was fiue hundred M. men who went

thither by land, and pitched themselues in battaile ray at Saran, neere to the place wher the son of Prester John kæpeth his Court. There Prester John with his power, slew of ẏ Turks the number of 60 M. onely by policie of drawe Bridges to let forth water, made as secrete slewses for that purpose, in which water so many Turks perished. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompasse Prester Johns sonne and toke him prisoner, and sent him for a present to ẏ great Turks Court then being at Constantinople, but sone after, prester John himselfe made an agrément betwæne the great Turke and his sonne, that the one shoulde not demaund tribute of the other, and so his sonne was released & sent home againe.

This Prester John of whom I spake before, is a King of great power, and kæpeth a very bountifull Court, after the manner of that Cuntrey, and hath euery day to serue him at his Table, sixty kinges, wearing leaden Crownes on their heads, and those serue in the meat vnto Prester Johns Table: and continually the first dish of meat set vppon his Table, is a dead mans scull cleane picked and laide in black Earth: putting him in minde that he is but Earth, and that he must die, and shal become Earth againe.

These 60 kings are all his Vize Royes in seuerall places, and they haue their Deputies to supply their Romes, and those kings liue continually in Prester Johns Courte, and go no further then they may be still attendant vppon him, wout leaue of their Emperour Prester John.

In the Court of Prester John, there is a wilde man, and an other in the high stræt at Constantinople, whose allowance is euery day a quarter of Raw Mutton: and when any man dyeth for some notorious offence, then are they allowed euery day a quarter of mans flesh.

These wilde men are chained fast to a post euery day, the one in Prester Johns Court, and the other in the high stræt of Constantinople, each of them hauing a Mantel cast about their shoulders, & all ouer their bodies they haue wonderfull long haire, they are Chained fast by the neck, and will spedily deuoure any man that commeth in their reach.

There is also a Beast in the Court of Prester John, called Arians, hauing 4 heades, they are in shape like a wilde Cat, & are of

the height of a great maſtie Dog.

In this Court likewiſe, there is Fowles caled Pharoes fowles whoſe feathers are very beautifull to be wozne, theſe fowles are as big as a Turkie, their flesh is very ſweet, and their feathers of all manner of Collours.

There is Swannes in that place, which are as lardge againe as the Swannes of Englande are, & their Feathers are as blew as any blew cloath.

I haue ſeen in a place like a Park adioyning vnto prester Johns Court, three ſcoze and ſeauen-teene, Unicornes and Elephants all aliue at one time, and they were ſo tame that I haue played with them as one would play with young Lambes.

When Prester John is ſerued at his table, there is no ſalt at all ſet one in any ſalt ſeller as in other places, but a loafe of Bread is cut croſſe, and then two knifes are layde a croſſe vpon the loafe, & ſome ſalt put vpon the blades of the knifes and no moze.

Being thus in the land of prester John, I trauelled vin Eighteene degrees of ỳ Sun, euery degree being in diſtance three ſcoze miles.

I was at the Red Sea, at the place where Moyſes made paſſage with his wande foz the Childzen of Iſraell, where I ſaw a Ship called the graund Maria, ſhe drawes but vi foot water, and againſt this ſhip ix. Gallies & ſhips haue fought at one time, and cannot conquer her: and this is vnder the gouerment of ỳ great Turke.

I haue beene in the Courts of the three great Patriarkes, the firſt whereof is kept at Ieruſalem, the ſecond at the gran Caer, & the third at Conſtantinople: theſe haue their Courts in very ſtately ſoꝛt, and attended on by none but Prieſts.

When I was at Ieruſalem, I ſaw the Sepulchre wherein (it is ſaide) Chriſt was burted: it is as it were in a Vault, and hath vij Dozes, & vij Roes of Marble ſteppes oz ſtayzes to go downe into the ſame, and then at the bottome of ỳ ſtayzes there is a faire Chappel, with an Altar & a Lamp burning cõtinually day & night befoze it, and the Graue is full of white Earth, as whit as Chalke, and a Toombe of ỳ ſame Earth made, & laide vppon Stone, wheron are ſundzy Letters written, but I could not read them.

The great Turk hath ſome profit comming by ỳ kæping therof, & hath therefoze builded at his owne charges an Hoſpital with-

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in Ierusalem, which his Genezaries doe kepe: and this Hospitall is to receiue all Pilgrims & trauellers to lodge in whensoeuer they come. And all that come to se the sepulchre doe pay ten Crownes a-peece, whereof the Turke hath but one, and the rest goes to the Church, and so they may stay there as long as they list to lodge in that new Hospitall, and haue lodging, bread, victuals and water so long as they will remaine there, but no wine: such as come thither for Pilgrims haue no beds at all, but lie vpon the ground on Turkey Carpets, and before the sepulcher of Christ there is masse said euerie day, and none may say the masse there, but a man that is a pure virgin: there was one that dyed while I was there, that daily said and sung masse before the sepulcher, and he was an C. and thirtie yeares of age before his death, & now another is in his Rome, but whether ỹ old man that dead is, or this which is now in the place to sing and say the said Masse, were pure Virgins I know not, but sure I dare not sweare for them, because they be men, and flesh and blood as other are.

After that I had thus long trauelled and spent my time in the warres and affaires of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Constantinople, where at my arriuall, a pennie loafe of Breade (of English starling money) was worth a crowne of golde: such was the scarsitie, Sickines, Misery and Dearth then vpon ỹ said Cittie, and happie was he that so could get Breade to eate. Neuertheless, because I was a Christian, and for that ỹ Turke had no cause preſetly to vse me in my office of gunnership, I was there imprisoned, where I found 2 M. Christians pind vp in stone walls lockt fast in yron chaines, grieuously pinched, with extreme penury, and such as wished death rather then in such misery to liue: amongst these was I placed, and tooke part with them accordingly: greeuing at my hard hap that the warres had not ended me before I came thether.

Thus I remained there with the rest, garded & daily watched, that we could stir no manner of way, there wee were suffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we sold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the same: and thus were we suffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather Snowe, which is there vsed yearely of Custome to be gathered: for the Turke hath

great summes of mony paide him for ỹ said snow, which is gathered and solde to his subiects for a peny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe English: & this snow they vse only to cole their drinke in the summer season. And no man may sell any snowe vntill the Turke hath solde all his.

Thus liuing in this slauish life as is aforesaid, diuers of vs complotted and hammered in our heads how we might procure our releasement: whereupon I attempted with the consent of 5 hundreth Christians, fellow slaues with my selfe, to breake a wall of foure score foote broad, made of earth, lyme, and sand, which we greatly moistened with strong Vineger, so that the wall being made moist therewith through the help of a spike of yron, fiue C. of vs had almost escaped out of prison: but loke what shall be, shal be, & what God will haue, shal come to passe and no more, as appeareth by vs, for we hauing made meanes for our spedie flight, as we were tilling forth, we were bewrayed by ỹ barking of a dog, which caused the Turkes to arise, and they taking vs with the maner stoped vs from flying away, and gaue vs in recompence of our paines taking herein, seauen C. blowes a peece with a Buls pissel vpon the naked skinne, viz. three C. on the belly, and foure hundred on ỹ back.

Thus lying still Prisoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleased God to send thether for the releasemente of me & others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maister Harborne, Ambassadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of England did behaue himselfe wonderfull wisely, and was a speciall meanes for the releasement of me and sundrie other English captiues, who were set at libertie some after the death of the great Basha: thus by the meanes of the said Maister Harborne I was set free from Thraldome, and by him sent into England where I arriued on the first of May. 1589.

Whilst I was remaining prisoner in Turkey, & kept in such slauish manner as is Rehearsed the great Turke had his sonne circumcised, which was the fore-skin of his priuy members was taken off, at which time there was great tryumphes and free liberty proclaimed for a C. daies space, that any Noble man, gentleman, traueller, Christian or other, might freely (without being molested) come and see the tryumphes there vsed, which were wonder-

ful

full: I my selfe was there constrained to make a cunning peece of fire worke framed in forme like to ỳ Arke of Noy, being 24. yardes high, & eight yardes broad, wherein was placed 40 men drawen on 6 wheeles, yet no man seene, but seemed to goe alone, as though it were onely drawen by two Fiery Dragons, in which shew or Arke there was thirtéene M. seuerall peeces of fire worke.

At the same time that I was Released, there were set at libertie about xx. English men, whereof I was one of the last: some of them are at this present in Englād. My selfe & others were released by meanes of her Maiesties fauorable Letters, sent to ỳ great Turke, brought by the foresayd Maister Harborne: some by the Raunsome money gathered at sundry times by the Marchants in the Cittie of London, for ỳ Godly purpose: of which, some of their names that were released were these. Hamand Pan, John Bér, John Band, Andrew Pullins, Edward Buggins and others.

Here may the bountiful Citizens of London sée (as in a glasse) the fruites of their liberalitie and charitable deuotiō giuen at seuerall times in the yeare towards the releasement of poore captiues, such as are constrained to abide most vild and grieuous forfeitures, especially the torture and torment of consciens which troubled me and all true Christans to ỳ very soule: for the Turk by al meanes possible would still perswade me and other my fellow Christians while I was there the time of 13. yeares, to forsake Christ to deny him, and to beleue in their God Mahomet: which if I would haue done, I might haue had wonderfull preferment of the Turke, and haue liued in as great felicitie as any Lord in that countrey: but I vtterly denyed their request, though by them grieuously beaten naked for my labour, and reuiled in most detestable sorte, calling me dogge, diuell, helhound, and such like names: but I giue God thankes he gaue me strength to abide with patience these crosses.

And though I were but a simple man voide of learning, yet still I had in remembrance that Christ dyed for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, & that Christ therein saith: He that denyeth me before men I will deny him before my father which is in heauen: and againe he saith: Whosoeuer beleeueth on me shall be saued, & haue life euerlasting. This comfort made me resolute, that I would rather suffer all the torments of death in the worlde, then to deny my Sauiour and Redeemer Christ Jesus.

After my free libertie granted in Turkey, I intending my iourney towardes England, came by land to Venice, where I met at Padua xxx. Englishmen students, I met also wᵗ an Englishman, who liued in the state of a Frier, he brought me before the high Bishop, where I was accused for an heretick, and he brought me in two false witnesses to be sworn against me (hauing before known me in Turkey) neuertheless I disproued his witnesses, and they were found forsworne men, then was I set at libertie, & constrained to giue 15 Crownes towardes the finishing our Ladies shrine at Padua: and my accuser and his witnesses punished.

From thence I came to ỹ Duke of Ferrara, where I was wel entertained and liberally rewarded with a horse and fiue & twētie Crownes for the sake of the Quēenes Maiestie of England.

From thence with my Pasport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popish Bishop being an Englishman which shewed me great friendship, he is called Doctor Pole: frō thence to Florence, there I met with an English gentleman named maister John Stanley. And from thēce I went to Rome, there I was ninetēne daies in trouble with the Pope, and the English Cardinall Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papist, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me passe, and vnderstanding that I had bene a captiue long time in Turkey, gaue me xxv. crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I was againe taken by ỹ English Colledge, & put there into the holy house 3 daies, with a fooles coate on my backe, halfe blew, halfe yellowe, and a cockescombe with three bels on my head, from whence I was holpen by meanes of an Englishman whom I found there, & presented my petition and cause to the Pope: who againe set me at libertie. From thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a Genowis, who apprehended me and brought me there before ỹ vice-Roy, saying I was a man of great knowledge & an English spie.

Then I was committed to a darke Dungeon xvj daies, which time they secretly made enquiry where I had line before what my wordes & behauiour had bene while I was there, but they could finde nothing by me.

Thrice had I ỹ strappado, hoisted vp backward with my hands bound behinde me, which stroke all the ioynts in my armes out of ioynt, and then constrained to drinke salte water and quicklime,

and

and then fine Lawne or Callico thrust downe my throate and plucke vp againe ready to pluck my hart out of my belly, al to make me to confesse that I was an English spie. After this, there were foure bard horles prepared to quarter me, & I was still threatned to die except I would confesse some thing to my harme.

Thus seauen moneths I endured in this miserie, and yet they could finde no cause against me, then I wrote to ỳ Vice-Roy to do me iu- tice, he did write to the K. of Spaine to know what should be done with me: wherupon the king of Spaine wrote that I should be employed in a Gunners rome: then was I entertained, and had 35. crownes a moneth, and had ỳ kinges patent sealed for the same, & then vnderstanding that three ships were comming towardes England I departed and fled from thence with them to my natiue Country, in ỳ Grace of London by the helpe of one Nicholas Nottingham maister thereof. Thus came I into England with great ioy and hearts delight, both to my selfe and all my acquaintance.

The report in Rome, Naples, and all ouer Italy, in my trauell which was at such time as the Spaniards came to inuade England, after I had bene released of my imprisonmẽt, as I passed through the streetes, the people of that parts asked me how I durst acknowledge my selfe to be an Englishman, and thereupon to daunt me, did say, that England was taken by the Spaniards, and the Queene of England (whome God long preserue) was taken prisoner, & was comming towards Rome to doe pennance: and that her highnes was brought thither, through desarts, moist, hilly and foule places: and where plaine ground was, holes and hollow trenches were digged in the way of her Maiesties passage, to ỳ intent that she might haue gone vp to the mid leg in oes or mire: with these speches they did check me, and I said, ỳ I trusted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the hands of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly reuile me.

Many things I haue omitted to speake of, which I haue seen and noted in the time of my troublesome trauel. One thing

did greatly comfort me which I saw long since in Sicilia, in the citie of Palermo, a thing worthy of memorie, where the right honorable the Earle of Orenford a famous man for Chiualrie, at what time he trauelled into forraine Countries, being then personally present, made there a challeng against al manner of persons whatsoeuer, and at al maner of weapons, as Turniments, Barriors with horse and armour, to fight & combat with any whatsoeuer. In the defence of his Prince & countrey: for which he was verie highly commended, and yet no man durst be so hardy to encounter with him, so that all Italy ouer, he is acknowledged the onely Chiuallier and Noble man of England. This title they giue vnto him as worthily deserued.

Moreouer, in the land of Egipt neere to the Riuer of Nilo, within fiue miles of the Gran Caer. There are seauen Mountaines builded on the out side, like vnto ỳ point of a Diamond, which Mountaines were builded in King Pharoes time for to keepe Corne in, and they are Mountaines of great strength.

It is also saide, that they were builded about that time when Ioseph did lade home his Brethrens Asses with Corne, in the time of the great dearth mentioned in the Scripture: At which time, all their Corne lay in those mountaines.

In the Riuer of Nilo, there is long Fishes that are of tenne or twelue fote long, which swimmeth neere the shore, they are called the fishes of king Pharao, they are like vnto a Dolphin.

These Fishes are so subtile, that swimming neere the shore side, they will pull men or women sodeinly into the Riuer and deuoure them.

In the Citie of the gran Caer, the houses are of a very olde building, all of Lime and stone, and in most of the houses the roses are couered with fine gold, in a very workemanly sort.

In Egipt there is small store of water, because it neuer rainethin that Country, so that their water is very dangerous to drinke. They haue no springs at all in that country, and yet there falleth such a dew euery night, as doth refresh and keepe their hearbes and plants in due sorte, and makes them spring

very

very fruitfully.

The Citie of Damasco is very fruitfull and greatly replenished wᵗ all manner of fruites whatsoeuer, as Pombgranades, Orenges, Limons, Apples, Peares, Plumbes, Grapes, & all other like fruites.

The Turkes are a people ꝑ at some time they will attempt to doe wonderfull things as going vpon Ropes, and thrusting their swords in their naked flesh, and stricke their swords in their flesh like vnto a Scabbard: & many other things of great daunger.

In Turkie no man may strike the graunde Cady, that is their chiefest Judg, if any man do strike him, immediatly he loseth his Right Arme for his offence, without Redemption.

At my comming ouer into Englande from Rome, I was faine to steale away, beeing then in yeerely fee to the King of Spaine, to be one of his chiefest Gunners.

And if the Ship wherein I came ouer, had bin taken, both they and I my selfe had dyed for that offence.

The old Cittie of Jerusalem is a very delicat place, and nothing there to be seene but a little of the old walles which is yet Remayning: and all the rest is Graste, Mosse and weedes much like to a peece of of Rank or moist grounde. They haue no Tillage at all in that partes.

The Citty of Jerusalem where the Temple nowst andeth is almost a mile from the olde walles of Jerusalem: it is of a maruellous olde building, and there standeth the old Relicks preserued & kept as Monuments of great treasure

Now to Returne where I left off, and declare vnto you in what sort I imploide my selfe since my first entring into englande: heere I visited my friendes from May till November, and then I departed into Fraunce, where I had good entertainment at the Hands of the Renowned King and Captaine of this age, Henry of Burbon, King of Fraunce & Navarre, who Receiued me into Pay, and appointed me for his chiefe M. Gunner in the fielde.

So that vppon Ash-wednsday last, at his most Renowned

Battle fought vppon the plaine of Saint Andrew nere vnto Drevx: I was in seruice vnder him, where I gaue 3 charges vppon the Enemie, and they in steede thereof, gaue vs fiftene shot, and yet God be thanked preuailed not against vs.

There were we constrained to make Bulwarkes of the dead bodies of our Enemies and of the Carcasses of dead Horses: where for my paines taking that day, the King greatlye commended me, and honorably Rewarded me.

But shortly after my first arrival in Fraunce, I was hated by some lewde Gunners who envying that I should haue the Title to be Master Gunner in Fraunce, practised against me, and gaue me poyson in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderstode, he gaue order to the gouernor of Dieppe, that his Phisition should presently see vnto me, who gaue me speadely Unicorns horne to drinke, and there by God and the Kings great goodnesse, I was againe restored to my former health.

Thus haue you hearde the manner of my cruell and most grieuous trauaile, my miserie slaverie, and crueltie which I haue suffred therein, the manner of some olde Ornamentes, and the customes of such as dwell in forraine nations far off, and in places where our Saviour and his Apostles were resident, and preached vppon the Earth: my seruice done vnder ye great Turke, of Persia, Tartaaia, Grecia, and other places of seruice, I haue omitted therein my seruice done at the taking of Tunnis, and what I did in the Royle vnder Don John of Austria: and many other thinges which I coulde here discouer vnto you: onely let this suffise, that I shall be glad, and do daylie desire that I may be imployed in some such seruice as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntrey.

FINIS.